

In the Abstract

Please replace the originally-filed Abstract by the following:

Abstract

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A testing system useful for food products employs a multispecies testing array to test for presence or amount of a plurality of organisms in a sample by detecting plural characteristic sequences for each of plural organisms to form a multispecies distribution output or microbial profile, and this is processed or used in conjunction with data mining or other processing to provide trend, warning or other data. The processor correlates and stores information relating to taste, smell, texture, processing conditions, quality or source of a component or ingredient, potential pathogenicity or other factor, with correlations on a multidimensional space yielding new preconditions or warning indications, and providing a mechanism for specialization of the species distribution data for specific products, as well as for incorporation or development of process changes and company trade secrets.

(A marked up copy of the original abstract is attached to this Response reflecting the foregoing amendment).

REMARKS

A replacement Abstract is submitted as required by the Examiner and the claims are amended herein. In addition, a replacement set of formal drawings is submitted herewith to replace the color photographic printouts originally filed. Applicant requests that the Examiner approve these drawings.

Applicant's attorney notes the Examiner's reconsideration of the restriction requirement, and examination of claims 1-9 and 14-21. The non-elected probe and system claims 10-13 and 22 are canceled herewith to expedite prosecution, without prejudice to their later presentation in a continuing application, and claims 1,2, 7-9, 14 and 18 are amended. The amendments clarify a